

REMARKS

In this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to remove minor informalities therefrom, and not for any reason relating to patentability. Claims 41-74, 76-108 and 110-145 that were pending in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/001499 were cancelled above, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in the present application and/or continuing application(s) that may claim priority from the above-referenced application. Accordingly, claims 1-40, 75 and 109 are now under consideration in the above-identified application. No new matter has been added to the present application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/001499 includes an International Search Report, dated October 13, 2004, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of document(s) that have been considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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